

ENRIO ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The European Network of Research Integrity Offices ENRIO
Non-Profit Association under Belgian Law
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1. WHAT IS ENRIO

Over the last 12 years, the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) has grown from a small group of leading professionals into one of the key players in advancing research integrity in Europe. The network has successfully built a mission, membership and activities that are comparable to some of the other major research associations in Europe. Since the network's inception in 2008, ENRIO has rapidly enlarged its membership. On 31 January 2021, the network had 31 members who are spread across 23 countries. This membership development has increased the influence and impact of the network. In 2020 ENRIO became a legally established association, enabling it to create an effective long-term strategy for the future of the network, and for the advancement of research integrity in Europe. During a transitional phase from 2020-2022, the old network will co-exist with the association.

ENRIO was founded soon after the 1st World Conference on Research Integrity in Lisbon, Portugal in 2007. It began as an initiative by the then director of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) and six others concerned with research integrity. They decided to establish an (informal) European Network to enhance research integrity within Europe in a world of growing international cooperation.

1.1 ENRIO Members

The following organisations were members of ENRIO association in 2021:

CIR-CAT, Spain

CNRS, France

Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science, Slovenia

Commission for Ethics in Science, Poland

Conseil Supérieur de l'intégrité scientifique, Belgium

CSIC, Spain

ETAg, Estonia

FEK, Norway

Health Research Board HRB, Ireland

LARI, Luxembourg

Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania

LOWI, Netherlands

Montenegrin Ethics Committee, Montenegro

Netherlands Research Integrity Network, The Netherlands

NPOF, Sweden

OeAWI, Austria

OFIS, France

RCR, Greece

Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Switzerland

TENK, Finland

The Commission for Scientific Integrity of Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

UKRIO, United Kingdom

VCWI, Belgium

Supporter organisations:

EMBO, Germany

DFG, Germany

Also, there are three individual research integrity practitioners as supporters for ENRIO.

Some offices from former network still need to figure out administrative solutions to join the network in a formal way as some offices have instable funding. ENRIO is in contact with the members of the former network to assist the integration into ENRIO VZW.

1.2 ENRIO Transitional Board 2020-2021

ENRIO's Transitional Board consisted of the then Board of the ENRIO network, the Executive Committee of the ENRIO association and new Board members representing both the ENRIO association and the old ENRIO network. The Board is responsible for the execution of ENRIO's general policy and consults with all members of ENRIO on any decisions that need to be taken in that respect.

The current President of ENRIO is Sanna Kaisa Spoof from the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK.

Transitional Board members:

Sanna-Kaisa Spoof (Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK)

President of the Association & Chair of ENRIO Network

Maura Hiney (Health Research Board, Ireland)

Vice-chair of ENRIO Network

Hjördis Czesnick (German Research Ombudsman - Office)

Vice-chair of ENRIO Network

Pablo Fernandez (UK Research Integrity Office)

Vice-President of ENRIO Association

Urša Opara Krašovec (Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science, Slovenia)

Vice-President of ENRIO Association

Loreta Tauginienė (Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania)

Board Member representing ENRIO Association

Joël Eyer (French Office for Research Integrity OFIS)

Board Member representing ENRIO Association

Helga Nolte (Geschäftsstelle für Ombudsangelegenheiten der Universität Hamburg, Germany)

Board Member representing ENRIO network

1.3 Secretariat

Kalle Videnoja has acted as a secretary for ENRIO since March 2019. Kalle's salary has been paid by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK.

1.4 Finance

ENRIO's finances are administered by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, TENK's host organisation, where a temporary cost centre for ENRIO has been established.

In 2021, ENRIO received 34 750 € in membership fee payments, and subsidised TENK in total 26 379 € for secretariat services and ENRIO publications (incl. salaries and graphic design). On 31 January 2021, ENRIO's balance was 21 621 €, including a 13 250 € surplus carried over from the 2020 accounts.

2. Meetings

The ENRIO Board met six times in 2021 by Zoom conference.

No physical meetings were held in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

ENRIO 2021 General Assembly 23-24 March 2021 by Zoom

12 official representatives of ENRIO member organisations and 21 other guests attended the virtual meeting.

ENRIO 2021 Fall Meeting, 3-4 November 2021 by Zoom.

40 representatives attended the virtual meeting.

3. EVENTS

3.1 ENRIO 2021 Congress for Research Integrity Practice

The ENRIO 2021 Congress on Research Integrity Practice took place online on 27-29 September 2021. The congress gathered c. 400 registered participants from 32 countries.

The concept of a practice-oriented congress on research integrity was pitched by TENK in 2019 as a part of ENRIO's Plan of Action during Sanna-Kaisa Spoof's term as the ENRIO Chair.

In 2019 the ENRIO board decided to organise the first ENRIO congress, with TENK as the main organiser and ENRIO, the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and Aalto University as co-organisers.

TENK carried the financial responsibility, and the congress was financially supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland. Aalto University provided congress premises, and the congress Programme Committee was composed of active ENRIO members and members and secretariat of TENK.

The original plan was to host the congress at the campus of Aalto University in Espoo, Finland on 5-7 October 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisers started preparing for a change of plans in February 2020. In April 2020, TENK made the formal decision to postpone the congress to 27-29 September 2021 and to organise it as a fully online event.

The Programme Committee was responsible for the quality and contents of the programme and for the peer review process. The Programme Committee was chaired by Krista Varantola. The members were Hjördis Czesnick, Vidar Enebakk, Joël Eyer, Nicole Föger, Maura Hiney, Panagiotis Kavouras, Riitta Keiski, Iina Kohonen, Erika Löfström, Helga Nolte, Riitta Salmelin, Sanna-Kaisa Spoof, Kalle Videnoja and Anni Sairio. Anni Sairio (TENK) worked as a full-time congress secretary, apart from a part-time interval during Sept-Dec/2020 when the congress work was on partial hold.

Conference office Tavicon handled the registration and monetary transactions. ProspectumLIVE created the online platform and handled the AV production and streaming of the event.

The congress participants consisted of RI practitioners and experts, research administrators, researchers, managers and others in leadership positions.

Programme

- 27 September 2021: nine online workshops
- 28-29 September 2021: 18 sessions, 50 talks and 21 virtual posters

3.2 ENRIO Webinar

A ENRIO webinar on the long-term impact of COVID-19 on research integrity and public trust in science took place online on 9 June 2021. The main themes of this event were research integrity related aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and ways to enhance public trust in science by cultivating a healthy research environment. Presentations were held by Hjördis Czesnick, Pablo Fernandez, Nicole Foeger, Isidoros Karatzas, Urša Opara Krašovec, Henriikka Mustajoki, Helga Nolte, Sanna-Kaisa Spoof, and Loreta Tauginienė.¹

4. Actions

4.1 Working group for Developing the ENRIO Whistleblowing Guidelines

A workshop to develop the ENRIO Whistleblowing Guidelines was held on 4 November 2021.

4.2 ENRIO Election Committee

In ENRIO's 2021 Spring Meeting, it was decided that an Election Committee would be established in that year's ENRIO Fall meeting. The main task of the Election Committee was to propose candidates for election to the Board including the President of the Board. There was an incapacity clause in force stating that members of the Election Committee are ineligible as Board Member candidates.

The following candidates were nominated for the Election Committee: Helga Nolte (University of Hamburg) (Chair of the Committee), Asael Rouby (Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity LARI), Sanna-Kaisa Spoof (Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK), Siret Rutiku (Estonian Research Council), and Dorien van der Schot (Netherlands Research Integrity Network).

¹ Presentations are still available online at <http://www.enrio.eu/news-activities/enrio-webinar-recording-now-available-for-streaming/>

4.3 Horizon Europe calls

In the Horizon Europe calls HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-90 and HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-91 it was stated that the proposals must include structured cooperation with ENRIO.

The rules of Horizon Europe are very strict when it comes to claiming personnel costs. To the EC it matters who does the work indicated in the application form, so any deviations from the strict rules of the programme will make the costs ineligible during a potential audit. ENRIO does not have a permanent secretariat and is, according to its Internal Rules, unable to have its own personnel, so the Board agreed that the best approach is for ENRIO to give a mandate to one or more ENRIO association members to participate as full partners in proposals.

ENRIO was approached by three consortiums regarding the WIDERA-90 call and one consortium regarding the WIDERA-91 call. In two proposals, ENRIO was offered a place in the project's Advisory Board, in one proposal ENRIO's work package was delegated to the Finnish Board on Research Integrity TENK, and in one proposal ENRIO was offered a role as an outsourcer to subcontract ENRIO member organisations for project work months.

ENRIO established a working group for the call Horizon WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-91 (The empirical and behavioral approach to research ethics and integrity, deadline in April 2022). The Working Group was composed of Ursa Opara (Chair) (Slovenian Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science), Sandra Bendiscioli (EMBO), Maura Hiney (HRB), Pablo Fernandez (UKRIO), Asael Rouby (LARI), Sanna-Kaisa Spooft (TENK), and Kalle Videnoja (TENK).

4.4 New Graphic Design for ENRIO and ENRIO Congress

Graphic design for the ENRIO Congress was purchased and implemented. Also, ENRIO's website was given a new visual appearance. Graphics for both were designed by Marko Myllyaho. The rules for the use of ENRIO's visual appearance are stipulated in ENRIO's Graphic Guidelines 2021, a document that is accessible for ENRIO members, contributors, and supporters and can be acquired from ENRIO secretary.

4.5 ENRIO Publication

ENRIO Congress secretary Anni Sairio was assigned to develop the Publication of the ENRIO Congress proceedings.

5. Communications

5.1. Electronic newsletter

ENRIO secretariat sent out two electronic newsletters about ENRIO, the ENRIO 2021 Congress on Research Integrity Practice and other content gathered from ENRIO member organisations.

5.2 Co-operation with EUREC

ENRIO established a policy group with the European Network of Research Ethics Committees EUREC to explore common interests in research integrity and research ethics policies on European level. This policy group met four times in 2021.

6. Further directions

To ensure the sustainability of ENRIO and to address emerging concerns, the Transitional Board and its successor Board when elected will collaborate to transfer learnings and experience gained over the initial few years of the organisation. Such a liaison should help to ensure the growth of ENRIO through different aspects of its activity (e.g., better enabling Internal Rules, developing an effective long-term strategy of ENRIO).